maintenance and operation of the irrigation head works at Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). The control of these head works remains with the Government of Punjab.

(b) Besides requesting the Government of Punjab to hand over the control of the head works to BBMB, the Union Government subsequently discussed the matter in meetings of the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan convened in July and August 1992. However, no further meeting could be held due to one reason or the other to finalize the decision arrived at in the meetings. The matter has also been raised in the Northern Zonal Council meetings. Repeated endeavour of the Union Government to convene another inter-state meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers to arrive at an amicable settlement on various water related issues including the transfer of the head works to BBMB, has not materialized so far.

(c) The Government of Rajasthan is of the view that the transfer of control of head works to the Bhakra Beas Management Board is specifically provided in the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 and any change in the same is not warranted. The State Government has requested for another inter-state meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers to resolve the issue.

Decline in ground water level

3782. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scary summer". Taps dry little underground which appeared in the Times of India dated the 21st March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem of continuously depleting table of underground water level as highlighted in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item express concern over fall in ground water level and inadequate water supply in some parts of Delhi in Mehrauli and Najafgarh blocks. It is true that decline of 8.35 meters in ground water have been recorded by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in Mehrauli and Najafgarh blocks of Delhi during 1960—2001. However, in most parts of the alluvial areas of Delhi, decline of only 2—6 meters in ground water level has been recorded.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to check the decline in the ground water level in Delhi:—

(i) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified South and South West district of NCT of Delhi, prohibiting further digging of wells.

(ii) CGWA has imposed ban on abstraction of ground water resources for sale and supply by private agencies/persons from the "Notified areas" except Yamuna Flood plain area of NCT of Delhi.

(iii) Adoption of roof top rain water harvesting system has been made mandatory for group housing societies, institutions, schools, hotels, industrial establishments and farm houses located in 'notified areas'.

(iv) CGWB is promoting artificial recharge to ground water in NCT of Delhi by financing proposals under its Central Sector Scheme *viz.* "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis, Besides, the Board has assisted various agencies and individuals in preparation of proposals and provided technical guidance including design for construction of rain water harvesting structures.

(v) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has amended Building Bye-laws, 1983 making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory.

(vi) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has also undertaken works of rain water harvesting in its own buildings.

Pending irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu

3783. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pending irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu which needs Central assistance;

(b) the reasons for the delay in implementation of these projects;

(c) the details of the steps taken for speedy implementation of these projects; and

(d) whether any enhancement in the cost of the projects has been made and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject the responsibility for planning, investigating, funding including prioritization, executing, operating and maintaining irrigation, flood control and drainage projects rests primarily with the State Governments themselves. The Union Government has formulated Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for approved projects in advanced stage of construction and it is for the State Government to propose suitable projects for assistance under this programme. The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Projects is receiving external assistance from World Bank. In 1996-97, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) amounting to Rs. 20 crores under AIBP was also released to this project.